

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NUR AFSHAN

Vol. IV.

FRIDAY:—JULY 6th, 1900.

Editorial Notes.

We have before us a Report of the Mission Famine Relief Committee read at Amritsar on the 25th showing much excellent work done. Until recently this work has been under the supervision of Dr. A. H. Browne, but this gentleman with A. E. Day of Peshawar having volunteered for service in the Bhil District this work has been assumed by the Rev. E. F. E. Wigram of Lahore.

At the meeting above mentioned Rs. 1800 were distributed as follows:—

Rev. A. Outram, C. M. S. Kher.	Rs. 750
To the Irish Presbyterian Mission	200
To the U.P. Rajputana Mission	200
To Dr. Macalister, Jeypore	200
To Miss Gow, Ajmere	200
To the purchase from Famine Relief works in Gujrat of cloth to be made up into clothes for famine-stricken adults and children	200

The distress of the poor people is indescribably sad. One Missionary writing says:—

"I never saw photographs, nor read descriptions vivid or awful enough to describe the sad plight of a large percentage of the people (Bhils). Whether we, or famine and cold will conquer, is doubtful in too many cases."

Added to the horror of Famine is

that of cholera which is carrying off multitudes. In one district there were over 10 000 deaths from this disease. Many more died where death was not reported. The following description is taken from the Report now under notice:

"The officials of the Relief Works camp were not prepared to cope with such an emergency at the moment, and hundreds of corpses remained exposed for some days. A body of dooly bearers was organised to carry the offensive bodies to the places of burning, but in many instances the bearers themselves were taken with cholera and lay down in the open beside the corpses they had been carrying, or near the burning pit, soon to succumb to the disease. Whichever way we turned we discovered these ghastly corpses twisted and bloated in every position which agony could produce. Then because the stretcher bearers were fleeing, a large number of carts were gathered, and the work of removal was facilitated. Cartload after cartload arrived under a police guard, and we set ourselves to sort out the living from the dead. The dead bodies, mostly nude, were thrown into the carts and carried off to the burning pit, their arms and legs dangling over the ends of the carts presenting a horrible spectacle. On one spot alone over 2,000 corpses were burnt in a few days."

Many noble workers have already laid down their lives. Among these we note with much regret the names

of Thompson, Gillespie and

house. Help is urgently needed. These people must be fed and sheltered till October or November.

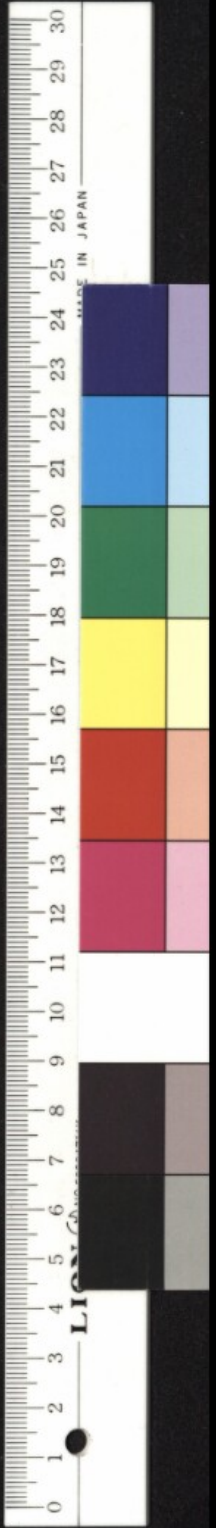
The form of help most desirable is money to buy food and clothes. Funds should be sent to the Rev. E. F. E. Wigram, Lahore.

The steamship Quito from America has arrived in Bombay with 200,000 maunds of Indian corn. It is not easy to realize the magnitude of this gift. The *Kaukab-i-Hind* computes that it would require 750 freight cars to carry this cargo. A large part of this grain is intended to provide seed corn for the destitute farmers.

The news of the relief of Teintsin by the combined forces of the Powers has brought a sense of relief to many Christian hearts. The news from the more remote regions in the interior will be awaited with anxiety. The hope of the Christian is in the Divine Master. Many Emperors and Kings have conspired to destroy the Lord's people but their machinations have been brought to nought.

The Editor of the *Arya Patrika* says that the 'Moral tone of (Hindu) Society in our own country is far from satisfactory' but goes on to say:

"Our condition is not likely to be alleviated by any scheme that the missionaries might suggest, for they fail entirely to apprehend our nation-



al characteristics. Their schemes are unsuited to our soil as well as to our constitution." Will the editor please tell us what he means by this statement? What characteristics do we fail to apprehend? Why are these Missionary schemes "unsuited to our soil"? What is the defect in the moral reforms urged by Christians? If it be urged, for example, that Christianity agonizes the Dayanandi doctrine, may we be favored with a statement as to what interests society would be aided by a wide-spread adoption of the practice of Niyog?

The opposition of the Muhammadans to the introduction of Nagri into the public offices is natural but we think their methods mistaken. Surely there is something to be said for the wants of 50,000,000 of Hindus who prefer the more accurate Nagri to the Urdu Shikista. Would it not be sufficient for practical purposes to accept the compromise, and then strive to so far to improve the Urdu chirography in the courts of the land as to make it acceptable to all classes. A half loaf is better than no bread.

Current Thought & Incident.

The Empress of China.

One night about sixty-four years ago there was disappointment in a little bamboo hut in one of the interior provinces of China, says Kathleen Gray Nelson, in "The Lutheran." A faint cry could be heard. It was the wailing of a poor little girl baby who had just come into the world where girls were not wanted. In her feeble way she was protesting against it.

"Oh, it's nothing but a girl. Drown the little wretch and get it out of the way!"

It was a neighbour standing over the mother who said this to the father.

"No, no; it is my baby, let her live," pleaded the mother. "We will call her Tsi An. It is a name that means good fortune."

She might one day have been wedded to some neighbouring farmer through the kindly offices of one of the 'go-betweens,' who arrange such things in China, for there was not a prettier girl to be found in the province. But Tsi An was destined for other things. Obscurity and monotony were not to be her portion.

The Taiping rebellion was then stirring the usually peaceful empire to its very center. Tsi's father was one of the sufferers at the hands of the rebels. His little patch of ground was destroyed. Day by day the little girl stood with her father and mother at the gates of the temple of Buddha, begging for a little rice. Oftentimes they had nothing to eat all day. At night they slept in the open space in front of the temple. But she was not a girl to tamely starve. Even then she was a determined little individual, and she showed some of the ability to get out of a bad predicament that has since characterized her actions. She knew that girls, especially if they were young and pretty, brought a good price in China. It was no uncommon thing for them to be sold.

When she suggested to her father that this would be a good way to retrieve his fallen fortunes he quite liked the idea. So he managed to sell her to the Viceroy of Lu Chang. His daughter became a kitchen slave in the yamen of the Viceroy.

Fortune now befriended little Tsi An. Her beauty and her bright mind attracted the attention of the wife of the Viceroy. She promoted her from position as scullion to the embroidery frame, and her life flowed on in a very pleasant channel. About this time she electrified that august official, the Viceroy, by begging to be allowed to learn to read. She gained her point. She has had a way of doing this all her life. A beautiful girl, who is also smart and ambitious, can cause a great deal of trouble in a quiet, well-regulated yamen. The Viceroy was a man who loved peace. He was even willing to part with his pretty favorite to secure it.

It happened that the Emperor sent him a peacock feather, and it is a custom in China for a subject to make a present to his ruler in return for any promotion. The Emperors have found it a pretty fashion and waxed rich on presents. The Viceroy of Lu Chang now sent Tsi An to the Emperor in return for the peacock feather. The Emperor was pleased with the exchange. He soon discovered that she was not only a very pretty woman, after the Chinese fashion, but a very clever one. She liked to

hear about affairs of state, and he found, to his surprise, that her advice was always good. Gifted with a clear head and remarkable foresight, by the time she had been in the harem a year, she had made herself invaluable to him. His counselors began to find out that the Emperor was wiser than they thought.

Finally the Empress of China died. Her death removed the obstacle that stood between the favorite of the Emperor and the realization of her dearest dream. She was not slow to avail herself of the situation.

Scarcely had the mourning for the Empress demanded by court etiquette been laid aside, when the Emperor caused it to be announced throughout his kingdom that one, Tsi An, was now 'Heaven's consort.' That high-sounding title is the particular property of the Empress of China. The Emperor was getting old and childish. It soon became evident that he depended entirely upon his pretty young wife, and was letting her run the affairs of the Flowery Kingdom to suit her own sweet will. When the Emperor died no one questioned her right to be the ruler of the land during the infancy of the Emperor's son. She had no children of her own.

That was twenty years ago. During this time the Empress Dowager has ruled her vast kingdom with an iron hand. She has overcome difficulties that would have discouraged the bravest. She has moulded men and events to her will. She has fought and won, alone and unnoticed, the greatest battle for her sex that has ever been waged. She has triumphed over custom, and she has conquered prejudice and overcome the narrowness and bigotry that cause her countrymen to scoff at women. She is said by those who know her to be the ablest woman in the world. She has even had to surmount the religious teaching of the land.

It is the custom of the Emperor once a year to go into a field within the walls of the forbidden city and plow a furrow with his own immaculate hands, with the idea of showing his subjects how honorable is husbandry. But the Empress Dowager has never been outside the palace grounds since the gate of peace closed behind the little slave girl in the sedan. And she will probably never go out until she goes on that last journey.

A peculiar property of the water of Lake Titicaca—attributed to contained salts—is said to be its lack of action on immersed metals. Chains and anchors continue for weeks as bright and free from rust as they were originally.

An Intrepid Woman Explorer.

Miss Marry H. Kingsley, who was contemplating a new journey of exploration to West Africa, has postponed this in order to go out to South Africa in the capacity of nurse in one of the army hospitals. Miss Kingsley is one of the most distinguished women in England, and an explorer and scientist of note.

She is the daughter of Dr. G. H. Kingsley and the niece of the late eminent Canon Kingsley. She was born with the love of travel and adventure in her soul, and as a child she took naturally to the study of botany and zoology, finding her laboratory in the fields and in the woods. It was in 1893 that she made her first journey to Africa. Going to St. Paul de Loanda for the primary purpose of studying the flora of Africa, she was soon tempted out of the civilized zone and pushed her way into regions which had never before been traversed by Europeans. In cutting her way through thick brush, conquering primeval forests, camping in swamps and setting up her tents now and then in delightful meadows, near sweet streams, this tenderly reared woman found great delight, which was intensified by her discoveries of valuable botanical specimens. With these she returned to England, and they are now the prized possessions of the museum.

In 1896 she returned to the Dark Continent, this time to visit Old Calabar and the river of the Niger Coast Protectorates. Thence she made a journey into the country of the elephant and the gorilla, making her way into parts of Africa in which no other explorer had set foot. After several hairbreadth escapes from raging floods and from wild beasts, the intrepid traveler managed to reach her friends of the French Protestant mission at Talaguga. Here she spent some weeks in rest with these hospitable Europeans, and then Miss Kingsley undertook a courageous journey across the country to Ogongou on the Remwe River. There, too, she explored regions into which she was the first white person to penetrate.

Miss Kingsley will improve her opportunities in South Africa by a study of the remarkable botany of that interesting region, especially in transplanted specimens.

Natural Bridge in Arizona.

The natural Bridge, on Pine Creek, in the northern part of the Gila country, is one of the greatest natural curiosities in the United States, equalling, if not

surpassing, the Natural Bridge of Virginia. It spans the creek at a height of about 200 feet, and the walls of the canon rise above it on either side 700 or 800 feet, and on one side form a perpendicular precipice. The bridge is of lime formation, and the inside of the great arch, which is some 250 feet across, is worn by the water as smooth as though chiseled by the skillful hand of a stonemason. The arch on top is nearly, if not quite, 400 feet in width, 1,000 feet in length, across the canon, and at the thinnest part only six feet through. About the centre of the arch is a hole large enough to admit the body of a man, and through which one can look down into the crystal pool of water 200 feet below.—Globe (Arizona) Silver Belt.

An Accomplished Baboon.

One of the cleverest creatures the London Zoological gardens has possessed for a long time is the lately added specimen of the Nubian baboon. The animal, which is a full grown female, was brought from Tunis, where she was purchased by Sir Harry Johnston. Dinduna, for such is the name she answers to, is highly intelligent. She has various vocal methods of expressing anger, appeal, or dissatisfaction. For the first she makes a noise not unlike a bark, 'haw, haw, haw'; for the second time she seems actually to form a word with her flexible lips 'Yam-yum-ma,' while she screams not unlike a child, and sheds tears copiously when grieved. She can recognize old friends even after a long lapse of time, is fond of walking upright and wearing clothes. At the word of command Dinduna performs various little tricks, and will untie almost any knot in a piece of string with marvelous dexterity.

The animal is likely to become a great public favorite, especially with the younger folks. It was this kind of monkey that the ancient Egyptians taught to perform various little domestic duties and to mount guard over their crops.

Women in Medicine.

Striking as has been the advance of women in the medical profession in England, it has been even more so in the United States.

The 'Young Woman' gives us the following statistics: Twenty-five years ago there were 500 lady doctors practicing in the States, to-day there are 4,500—one in 13,00 of the population. Among these are a few

distinguished homoeopaths, hospital physicians, and surgeons, professors in medical schools, oculists, and electro-therapists, the great majority being ordinary doctors. The first lady doctor in the world was an American woman—Miss Elizabeth Blackwell, who was enrolled as a physician in the Medical Registers of January 1, 1849. One of America's most noted lady doctors, Marie E. Zakrzewska, was a native of Berlin, but she had to leave the German capital in consequence of the strong prejudice aroused against her. It was many years ago, and the doctor is now tolerated even on that continent. Even the Far East has its lady doctors, the best known among them being a Chinese, Hu King Eng, first physician to the household of Li Hung Chang. Dr. Eng is a Christian and comes of a wealthy family. She took her degree in the United States, and is now in charge of a hospital at Foo Chow. As to the earnings of the lady doctor they vary, of course, very largely. There are women who count their income in thousands, and one lady practicing in the West End of London earns \$20,000 a year. Miss Annie Romberger, of Philadelphia, has a practice worth \$6,000 a year, and she is one of many who earn as much.

Presbyterian.

The Queen's Stockings.

A little story, quite in the style of Hans Andersen, about the Queen of Italy and a poor child, points an important political moral which we leave it to our readers' acumen to discern, says an exchange.

Her majesty was recently walking in a Roman suburb when she noticed a pleasant-faced little girl and spoke to her. There was a little conversation, and the Queen asked the child what she could do in the way of needlework. "I can knit stockings, signora," replied the girl. "Do you know who I am?" continued the Queen. "Yes, signora; you are the Queen." "Well then make me a pair of stockings, and send them to the palace."

A few days afterward the stockings arrived, and Queen Margerita in return for the gift sent the child a beautiful pair of rose-colored stockings, the one filled with sweets, the other with money.

Next day the Queen received a letter from her little friend couched in the following words: "Signora, your gift has caused me no end of tears. My father collared the money, my elder brother grabbed the sweets, and as to the stockings, why, mother put them on herself."



Telegrams.

London, June 30.

In response to the Admiralty's request three vessels from the Australian Squadron are proceeding to China.

The Russian Admiral Alexieff commands the allied troops in North China.

The French Consul M. Francois, left Yunnan for Tonkin on the 24th, and the Viceroy was facilitating his journey.

London, June 30.

A despatch from Lord Roberts, dated 29th, states that the Boers attacked going to Lindley. After a vigorous action the convoy reached Our loss was 10 killed and 50 wounded.

There were two skirmishes in which five were killed and twenty-seven wounded.

Lord Methuen pursued the Boers twelve miles in the direction of Lindley, and captured 8,000 sheep and 500 cattle.

Owing to the general outcry arising from a letter published in the press from Mr. Bardett Conitts, revealing the breakdown of the hospital arrangement and the treatment of the sick, especially at Bloemfontein, the Government have agreed to a debate in the House of Commons with regard to the same.

London, June 30.

A despatch from Admiral Seymour, dated Chefoo, June 29th, recounts the persistent endeavours made by him and his force against heavy odds and determined and constant opposition to reach Peking. The Boxers were daily repulsed, losing hundreds in killed. The force reached Anting twelve miles from Peking, where the railway was found demolished. Admiral Seymour then retired much hampered with his wounded and short of provisions. In one of the engagements the Boxers and Imperials lost four to five hundred in killed. The Boxers throughout obstinately retarded his retirement. On the 23rd Admiral Seymour occupied the Imperial armoury above Tientsin which the enemy unsuccessfully attempted to re-take. The Admiral says he could have held out with the captured guns and stores, but owing to a large number of wounded, he sent to Tientsin for relief, which arrived on the 25th, instant.

London, July 1.

The German Minister at Peking was murdered by native troops on the 18th.

The situation as regards the others was desperate on the 26th, the Empress being unable longer to protect them.

New South Wales has offered a Naval Brigade of 2,000, and 3,000 troops for service in China.

London, July 2.

A despatch from Admiral Bruce, dated Chefoo, 30th June, says:—The total forces landed are 520 officers and 13,500 men, with 36 machine and 53 field guns.

Reuter at Shanghai says the Chinese are laying down torpedoes between Shanghai and Kiangnan forts on the Yangtse, and preparing to resist the foreigners.

The expedition which Admiral Seymour conducted against the arsenal, north Tientsin, was most gallantly conceived and executed. An overwhelming rabble of Chinese, composed of Boxers, and undisciplined soldiers discharged criminals and sections of the regular Chinese army, opposed his advance. The British Tars and Marines fixed bayonets and charged the enemy, forcing them from one position to another. The enemy after a stubborn resistance broke and fled, and the arsenal fell into the hands of the British. The British losses were twenty-seven killed and ninety-seven wounded. The captured arsenal contained an immense number of guns and arms, and a large quantity of ammunition of the very latest pattern. Admiral Seymour destroyed the armoury.

London, June 30.

The American battleship Oregon is on the rocks of Kuki Island to the northward of Chefoo.

London, July 2.

General Calve has been ordered Home from South Africa. No explanation is forthcoming as to the reason.

General Clements with a flying column has left Senekal in the direction of Lindley, and was hotly engaged on the 29th, and fighting is proceeding.

The prolonged delay in dealing with De Wet is much criticised.

London, July 3.

The latest news from Peking states that provisions and ammunition in the besieged Legations are failing. Twenty thousand Chinese troops are inside, and 20,000 outside Peking, and 3,000 are marching on Tientsin, communication with which is insecure.

A despatch from Admiral Bruce, dated Taku 30th, says he does not know what has been arranged at Tientsin, but it is not yet thought possible to attempt a further advance.

The German Emperor has ordered a Naval Division to proceed to China.

London, July 3.

German transports with 2,300 Marines sailed yesterday for China. The Kaiser witnessed their departure, which was made the occasion of a patriotic demonstration.

A German brigade of all arms, composed of volunteers from the army, being framed for service in China.

The Emperor William, addressing the Marines before they sailed, said crime of horrifying barbarity demands vengeance, and he will not rest until the German and the allied flags are planted on the walls of Peking.

London, July 4.

A debate took place in the House of Commons last night. Mr. Brodrick deprecated any discussion in the present maze of uncertainty. The Government, he said had informed Japan that they hoped, in view of her proximity, she would be able to considerably supplement her contingents in China. There was no reason to think any Power had discouraged Japan. The Government's greatest desire was to preserve accord among the Powers.

London, July 3.

General Hunter has crossed the Vaal River, and is nearing Frankfort, which is the Boers supply depot.

General Macdonald's Brigade from Heildron joins him.

There is great scarcity of provisions amongst the civilians at Pretoria and elsewhere.

Lord Roberts has repelled all the foreigners who became burghers during the war.

General Hunter has occupied Frankfort unopposed, and General Clery has occupied Greylingstad.

London, July 3.

The Khedive was received to day at the Guildhall with full honours. Lord Salisbury was present. The freedom of the city in a gold casket, was presented to the Khedive.

His Highness, in thanking the Lord Mayor, said he was confident his visit would strengthen the relations between Britain and Egypt, and tend to develop their commercial interests already so strongly connected.

His Highness was enthusiastically received.

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